

Jazz Services

PRESS RELEASE



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Centre-Line

The above band has received a Jazz Services National Touring Support Scheme grant for their new tour.

Line-up:

Darren Altman – drums
Russell van den Berg – sax and EWI (electric wind instrument)
Jez Franks – guitar
Jon Harvey – electric bass

London-based quartet Centre-Line will be taking their unique contemporary sound and groove-based melodic originals on a UK tour to promote their new CD, A Virtual Joyride. Centre-Line is founded on a 17-year long musical partnership between Darren Altman and Russell van den Berg and benefits from an ever growing repertoire due to the prolific writing talents of the band members, who are all respected musicians on the UK jazz scene, both as part of Centre-Line and in their own right.

Darren Altman is a sought after drummer, having worked with some of the top names in the UK jazz world such as Clare Teal, Sax Appeal, Don Weller, Jim Mullen and Anita Wardell. Altman has also performed with the house band at Ronnie Scotts, The Rat Pack show in the West End and on tour in Europe, and has numerous film and television soundtracks to his credit. He is professor of jazz drums at the Purcell School Of Music and has taught at Guildhall School of Music and Drama, the Royal Academy of Music and Wavendon Summer Schools.

Russell van den Berg is a much in demand award-winning saxophonist, as comfortable performing with the likes of Kenny Wheeler as being a featured soloist in UK contemporary big bands and large ensembles. With a growing discography, including four solo albums and many as a sideman, he continues to lead his own regular groups throughout the UK. He is a highly experienced and respected educator, having taught at Trinity College of Music and the Royal Academy of Music, and is currently the senior principal lecturer and co-leader of the Leeds College of Music jazz course. As a composer and arranger, he has acquired several commissions and awards.

Jez Franks is a leader of his own quartet, as well as being an in-demand sideman. He can be heard on many recordings and seen with numerous London based bands. Franks has played alongside the likes of Eddie Parker, Paul Clarvis, Laurence Cottle, Geoff Gascoyne, Mick Hutton, Dudley Phillips and Julian Arguelles. He is a senior guitar lecturer at Leeds College of Music and Kingston University, and visiting guitar examiner at Trinity Laban Conservatoire, the Welsh College of Music and Drama and the Royal Academy of Music. As a strong voice of Centre-Line he contributes his own works, alongside an array of electronic soundscapes from his energetic guitar playing.

Jon Harvey is regularly seen playing in many diverse groups in the UK and around the world. A graduate of Trinity College of Music, where he was coached by Russell van den Berg, he was invited to join Centre-Line for his incredible groove, musicianship and writing, always offering a fresh base for band members to feed off. Aside from Centre-Line, he has also worked with Aronas, Tony Smith & Co, Debbie Harry, Ola Onabule, Asaf Sirkis, Jason Rebello, Jerry Brown, Kit Downes, Troy Miller, Benet Mclean, Ralph Salmins, Ian Shaw and Malcom Bruce.

<http://centrelinemusic.com/>

Reviews:

"Classy contemporary jazz with a personal stamp" – Guardian

"Altman's rhythmic bite perfectly complimenting Berg's harmonic bark. Balanced by the wonderfully grooving rhythm section, Berg's explosive chops that maintain a sense of drama and surprise through every twisting bar, this is a band to watch." – Jazzwise

"... full of sustained, great unique playing and writing. One can just feel the joy that these close friends must conjure up on the bandstand." – Randy Brecker.

Date	Time	Venue	Town	Box office
19/1/2012		Blue Boar	Poole	01202 682247
20/1/2012		Olivers	London	020 8858 5855
5/2/2012		Hotel Hatfield	Lowestoft	01502 568684 (Milestones Jazz Club)
14/2/2012		Dempseys	Cardiff	029 2049 6802 (Jazz at Dempsey's)
15/2/2012		St James Social Club	Swansea	01792 380615 (Swansea Jazzland)
16/2/2012		Café Jazz	Cardiff	02920 340591
17/2/2012		Bear	Bristol	0117 987 7796
24/2/2012		Ilminster Arts Centre at the Meeting House	Ilminster	01460 54973
26/2/2012		Seven Artspace	Leeds	0113 2626777
6/3/2012		Ye Olde Smack	Leigh-on-Sea	01702 476765
15/3/2012		Bonington Theatre	Nottingham	0115 967 0114
22/3/2012		Oystercatchers Cafe	Teignmouth	01626 774652
23/3/2012		Panteg House	Pontypool	01495 756117
29/3/2012		Trades Club	Hebden Bridge	01422 845265

END

Notes to the editor:

Jazz Services

Jazz Services provides a voice and support for UK Jazz; promoting its growth, accessibility and development in the UK and abroad. Services include advice, advocacy, communications, education, information, marketing, publishing, research and touring. Jazz Services is recognised as a committed campaigner providing a valued voice for jazz in the UK. Jazz Services publishes Jazz UK, a listings magazine with a print run of 30,000 that is distributed by subscription and free through venues, colleges, libraries and shops.

Jazz Services works closely with the National Youth Jazz Orchestra (NYJO), which is an autonomous body that receives its Arts Council England funding through Jazz Services. NYJO also receives funds from private donors, Youth Music and the Musicians' Benevolent Fund. Every year NYJO organizes over 100 open workshops for jazz musicians up to the age of 25 and more than 40 concerts.

Jazz Services gratefully acknowledges the support of Arts Council England and also the Performing Right Society for Music Foundation for their support on the Jazz Promoters Award Scheme.

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